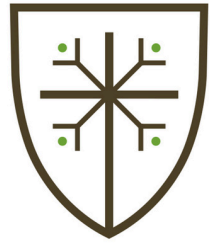


SERMON NOTES



May 11, 2025

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Security's Secret"

PREACHER

Rev. Brent Baker

TEXTS

Isaiah 40:9-11

Revelation 7:9-10, 13-17

John 10:22-31

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider some of the false messiahs or shepherds that rule your life. How does their rule look different than the security and peace found in the Good Shepherd?
2. How do we tune our hearts to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd amidst all the other voices that call out to us?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Brent led us in a look at Jesus as our Good Shepherd. Although the idea of a shepherd may not seem threatening to us, to the Jews in Jesus' time claiming to be the Good Shepherd had strong messianic undertones.

The Secret

Throughout the gospel of John, we see increasing opposition to Jesus. He has laid down hints in his teaching and preaching about his identity as the Christ, the Messiah, God's anointed King. But here, the Pharisees ask him to state it plainly. They wanted clear grounds to kill him. His declaration as the Good Shepherd would have drawn to mind divinity and the messianic promise. Only YHWH, the God of Israel, was referred to as the Shepherd. This was borderline blasphemy for the Pharisees. Their demand for Jesus to reveal his identity was not so much about confusion as opposition. He is not the messiah they wanted.

Jesus' messiahship demands something of them (and of us). We cannot live neutral lives with Jesus as our King. And this leads to opposition in the world. Jesus' sovereignty is a threat to the human heart. In our culture, self-sovereignty is the highest ideal. The self projects itself as king. We are all ruled by something, some king, some shepherd who guides our life. We have a messianic secret that has to be outed. Jesus says these are all false messiahs, false shepherds. His divine sovereignty calls out to us. It demands and pleads for our faith and our life. It demands surrender to him.

Security

The evidence of Jesus' sovereign rule in our lives is increased security and peace. We see this made clear through the intentional time and place of his conversation with the Pharisees. The time is during the feast of dedication. This celebration marks the unlikely victory of Judas Maccabeus over the Greeks who sought to bring pagan rituals into Jerusalem and the temple itself. The festival was a celebration of victory and the restoration of God's people now known as Hannukah. The focus was around lights, symbolizing the undoing of darkness that resulted in renewal of life. It was indicative of what Jesus uses his rule to do. He revolts against darkness and all forces of evil to restore life and peace to his people.

The conversation took place in the colonnade of Solomon. Solomon was the one king of Israel whose 40-year reign was marked by security and peace. Despite threats from the other nations, God's people rested secure under their peace-making king. In the same way, we are able to rest secure under the rule of our king. In any season of life, we can have faith that we are guarded and kept. We are preserved by his power.

Our hope does not lie in our promise to never loose hold of Jesus but in his promise to never loose hold of us. This is our security. Nothing can snatch us out of the Good Shepherd's hand.